

Redirect lottery money to schools

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According to the Kentucky Lottery, \$457.7 million was paid to players statewide during the 2005 fiscal year. Of that amount, \$4,440,988 went to winners in Barren County. Congratulations to all those who were lucky enough to win a few extra dollars.

However, for every winner there is always a loser as evidenced by a total of \$6,863,929 worth of tickets sold in Barren County.

Again, however, one's loss is another's gain.

Lottery officials claim that \$132 million of the \$158.2 million earned in fiscal year 2005 went to grants and scholarships, while \$8 million went to the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship Reserve fund.

That's all well and good, but we believe that money could be better spent.

Although higher education is key in luring industry and helping graduates prepare for high-end jobs, Kentucky's focus should be on the lower levels of learning.

Several schools in this area alone are badly in need of renovations or new facilities altogether. Other areas of the state face the same problems.

Earmarking lottery money for higher education benefits a select few. Directing that money toward our public schools would mean a better learning environment and opportunity for all.

The taxpayer would also benefit from a change in policy. If schools received more money from the state level there would be little need to constantly raise taxes on property.

That, to us, sounds like a situation where everybody hits the jackpot.